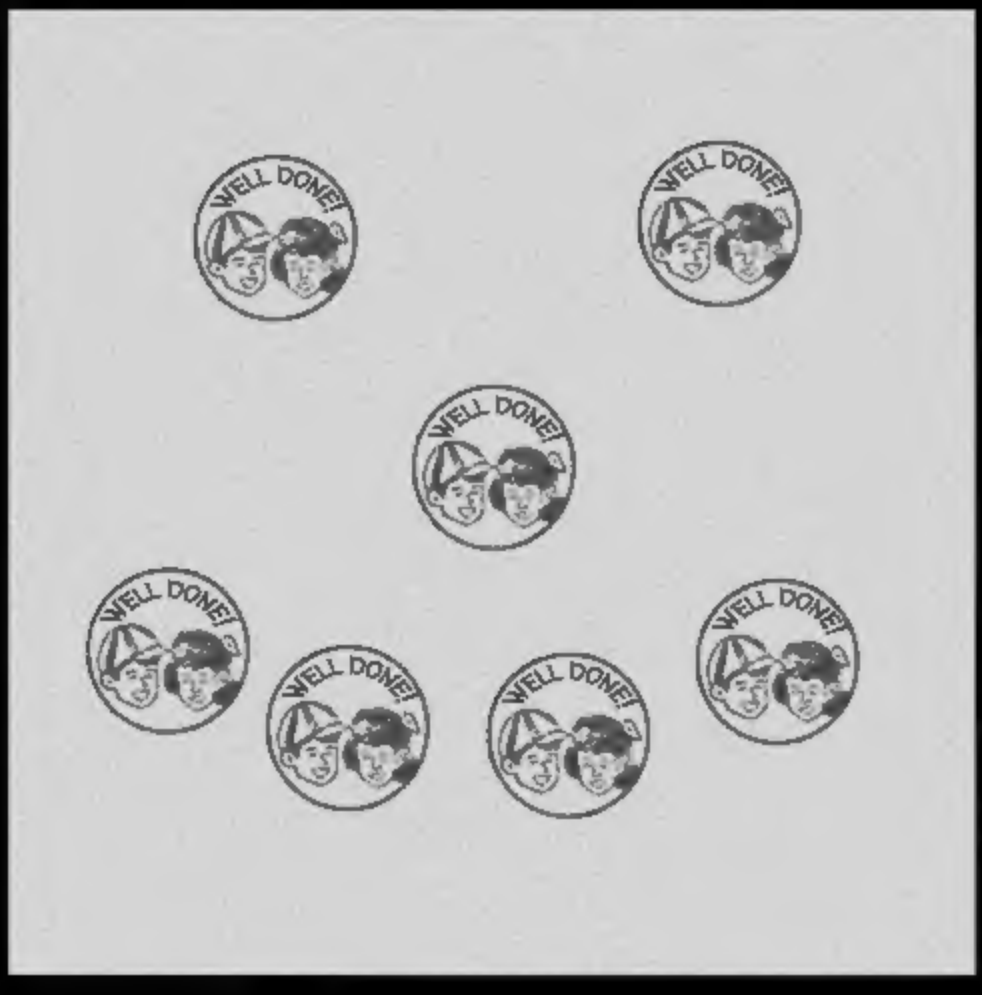
THIS EPISODE IS UNRELATED TO ANY PARTICULAR RELIGION OR DENOMINATION. IT IS A STORY ABOUT THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF AN 'AFTERLIFE,' SO I HOPE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

I'M SURE OF IT.



I DIDN'T LIVE AN EVIL LIFE. IN FACT,
I'M CONFIDENT THAT IT WAS THE OPPOSITE.

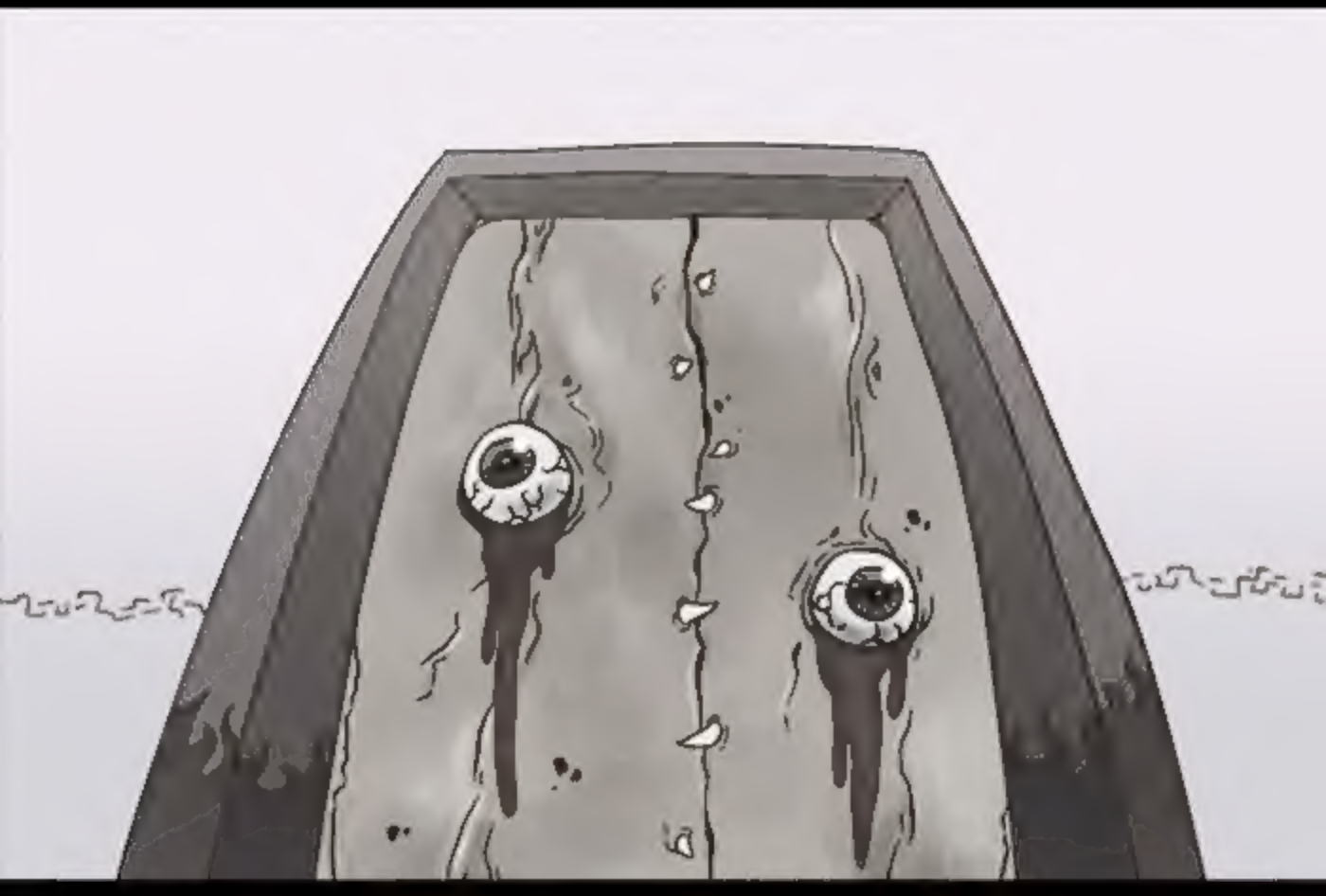
I DID MY BEST FOR MY PARENTS,
MY WIFE AND MY CHILDREN.

I HAVE BEEN RESPECTED
AND LOVED THROUGHOUT MY LIFE.

I DIDN'T HARM ANYONE ELSE
FOR THE SAKE OF PERSONAL GAIN.

I ALWAYS STROVE TO MAKE THE
COMMUNITY OF WHICH I WAS A PART PROSPER.

AND YET.
THE RESULT OF ALL THAT...

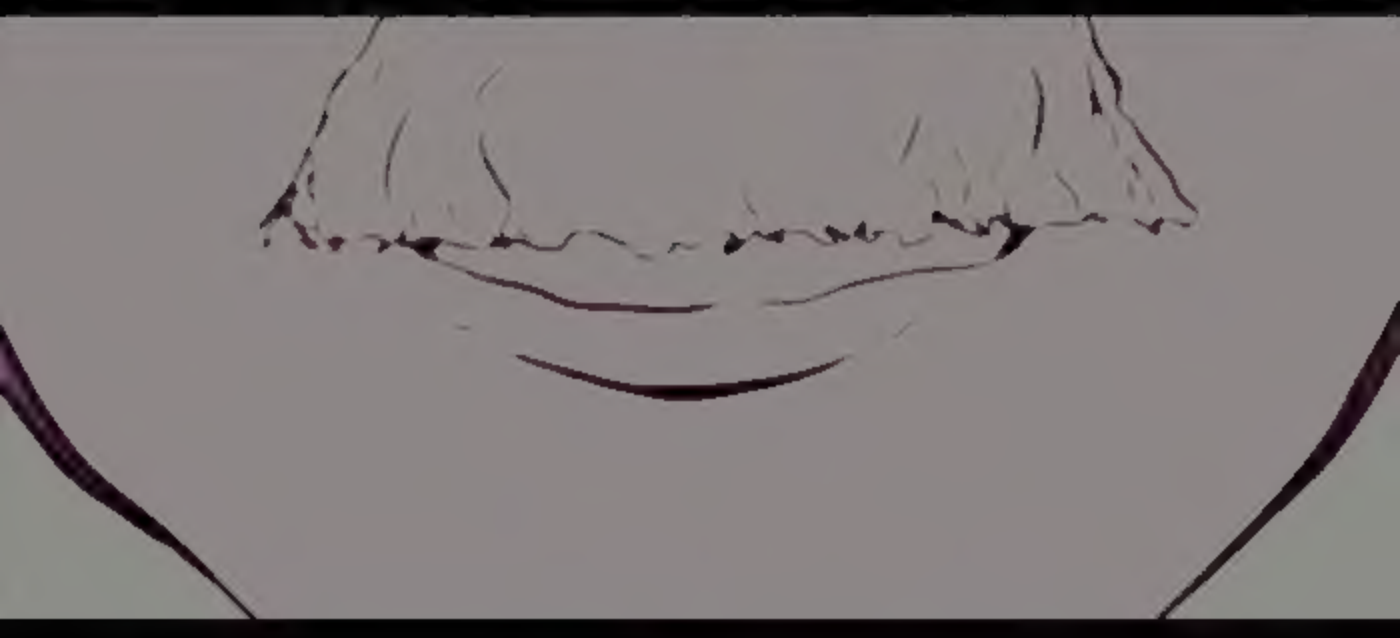


IS HELL?

WHY?
WHY ME?

WHY DO
I HAVE TO GO
TO HELL!!?

ETERNITY
IS A PLACE WHERE
ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE
LIVED BY MY WILL
MAY GO,



NOT
THOSE WHO
LIVED ACCORDING
TO THEIR OWN
WILL.

FRIDAY
FORBIDDEN TALES
禁曜日

092. REINCARNATION

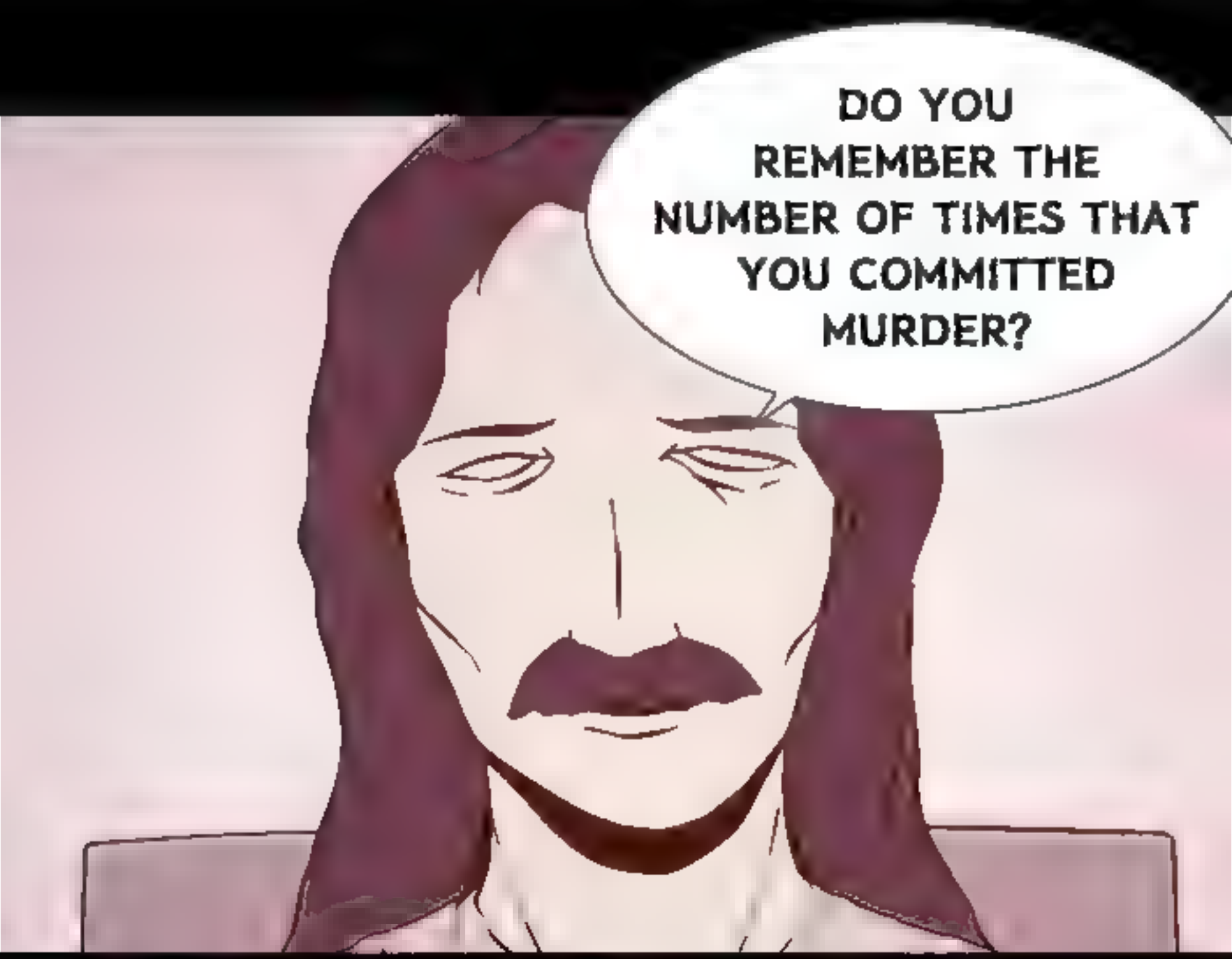
YOU WHO DOUBT ME, SPEAK.

THE
TIME IN LIMBO
IS ALSO A TIME OF
AWAKENING.

IF SO, THEN WHAT USE IS LIVING SINCERELY AND KINDLY?

WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO GOOD DEEDS AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

IF I COULD GO ONTO ETERNITY WITH JUST ONE WORD OF REPENTANCE EVEN IF I HAD LIVED AS THE WORST CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD!
MY CREATION.



MURDER? I SWEAR I'VE NEVER DONE SUCH THING.

WHAT ON EARTH IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

UNBELIEVER.
HAVE YOU EVER
THOUGHT EVEN
ONCE

ABOUT
THE NUMBER OF
CREATURES YOU HAVE KILLED,
THE NUMBER OF LIVES
YOU HAVE TAKEN?
WHAT?

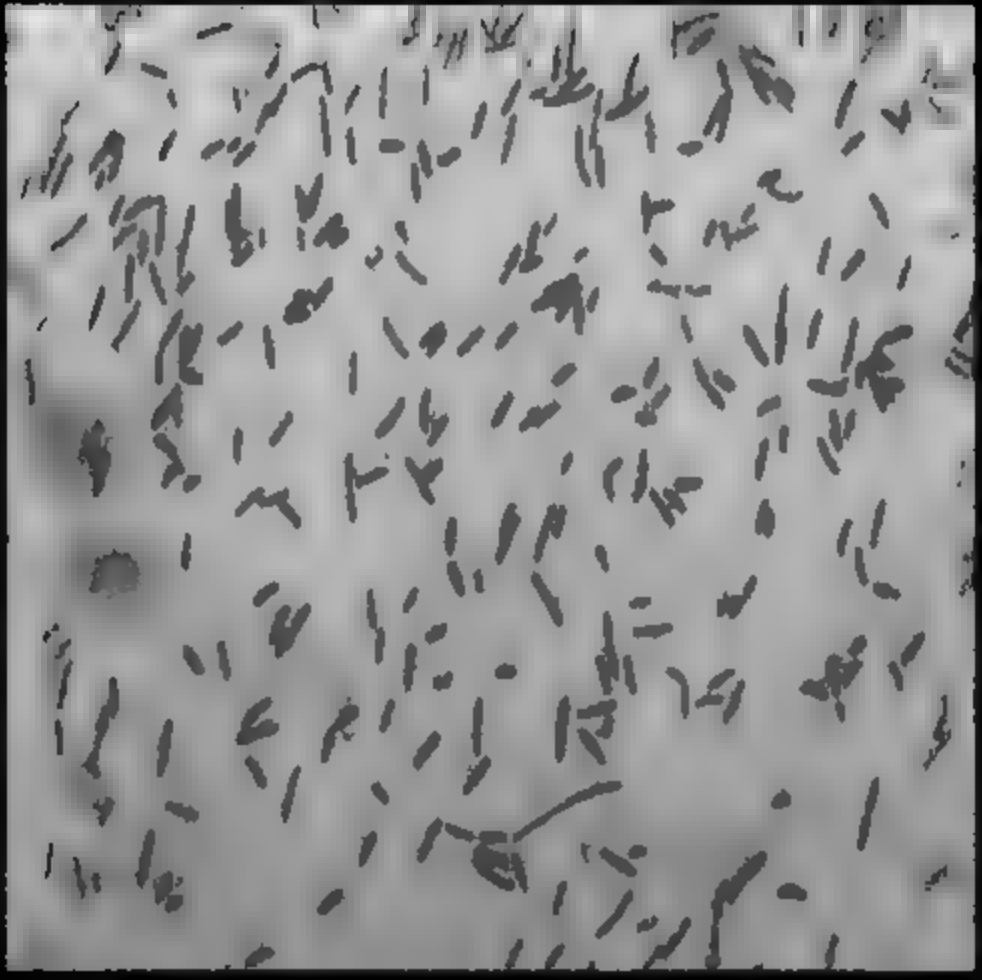
HE TOLD ME.

ABOUT MY SINS FOR THE ASTRONOMICAL NUMBER OF MURDERS I HAVE COMMITTED IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT HAVE DIED AND BEEN CONVERTED INTO FOOD IN ORDER TO KEEP ME ALIVE.

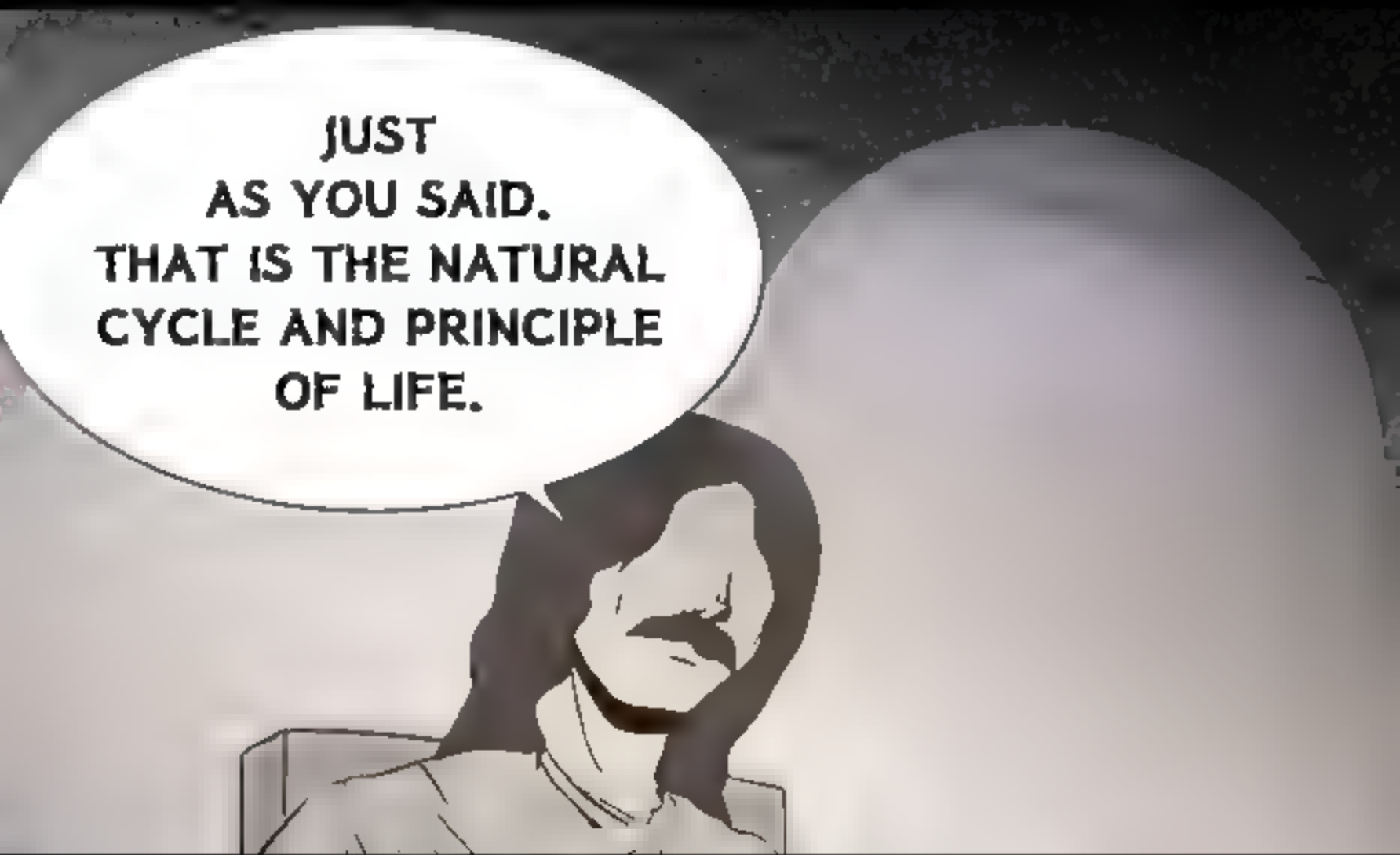
THE CREATURES I HAVE KILLED BECAUSE I FOUND THEM REPULSIVE, IRRITATING, OR JUST BY ACCIDENT.

HE SAID THAT EVEN VIRUSES AND BACTERIA ARE CREATURES IN THE STRICT SENSE OF THE WORD.



HOWEVER, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

THIS WAS JUST OVER THE TOP.
I THOUGHT IT WAS LUDICROUS.


JUST
AS YOU SAID.
THAT IS THE NATURAL
CYCLE AND PRINCIPLE
OF LIFE.

HARMING OTHER CREATURES TO FATTEN YOUR OWN SELF IS THE VERY LAW OF NATURE.
THEN.
CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT YOUR LIFE IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF AN EVIL MAN?

THIS IS SOPHISTRY! ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS CASUISTRY!

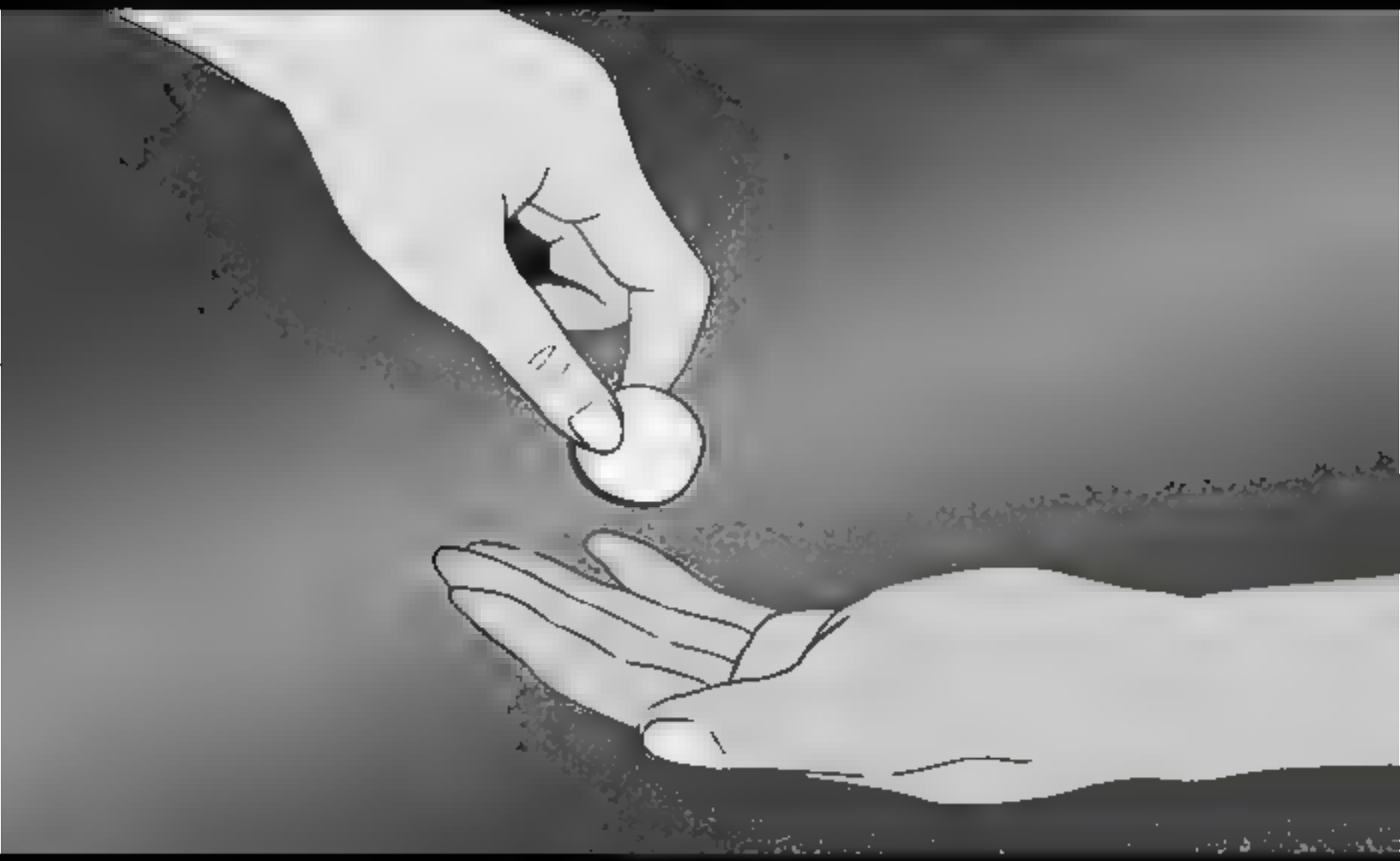
IS GOD A SOPHIST?

YOU WHO STAND BEFORE JUDGMENT. LIVING ITSELF IS THE MOST SELFISH ACT OF ALL. IT IS A MANIFESTATION OF PURE SELFISHNESS.

HE WENT ON.

EVERY ACTION OF A CREATURE IS SIMPLY FOR ITS 'OWN' BENEFIT.

EVEN THOSE ACTIONS WHICH WE THINK OF AS 'GOOD DEEDS' ARE BASICALLY JUST TO SATISFY OR COMFORT OURSELVES, OR SELFISHNESS IN THE FORM OF A KIND OF 'COMMUNAL INSURANCE.'



BUT WHEN YOU LOOK CAREFULLY,
IT IS THE WILL OF OTHERS THAT RECOMMENDS
AND ENCOURAGES SUCH ACTIONS.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS MERELY ANOTHER
FORM OF SELFISHNESS IN A COMMUNITY,

WHEREBY IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU DO
GOOD DEEDS IN ORDER TO BECOME THE
BENEFICIARY OF OTHER GOOD DEEDS.

I WAS AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
IT SEEMED LIKE SOPHISTRY.
OR RATHER, I REALLY HOPED IT WAS.

IF WE DO NOT LIMIT THE STANDARDS FOR GOOD AND EVIL TO 'HUMANS.' UNDER THAT ASSUMPTION...

THEN I WAS ALSO JUST A SELFISH GENE HARMING OTHER CREATURES IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

COULD IT BE THAT GOD

VALUES HUMANS AND OTHER CREATURES EQUALLY?

COULD THIS MEAN!

THAT GOD DOESN'T HAVE SOME KIND OF SPECIAL AFFECTION FOR HUMANS?

YOU ARE
ALL EQUALLY
MY CREATIONS.
WHY DO YOU THINK
THAT ONLY HUMANS
ARE SPECIAL?

IS THAT NOT

THE VERY ARROGANCE OF HUMANS!?

THAT'S RIGHT. HE WAS RIGHT.

HUMAN ARROGANCE CREATED FALSE BELIEFS.

NOT THE 'GOD' THAT WE CREATED.

BUT RATHER THE 'GOD' WHO REALLY EXISTS..

MAY BE MUCH WISER OR
COOL-HEADED THAN WE THOUGHT.

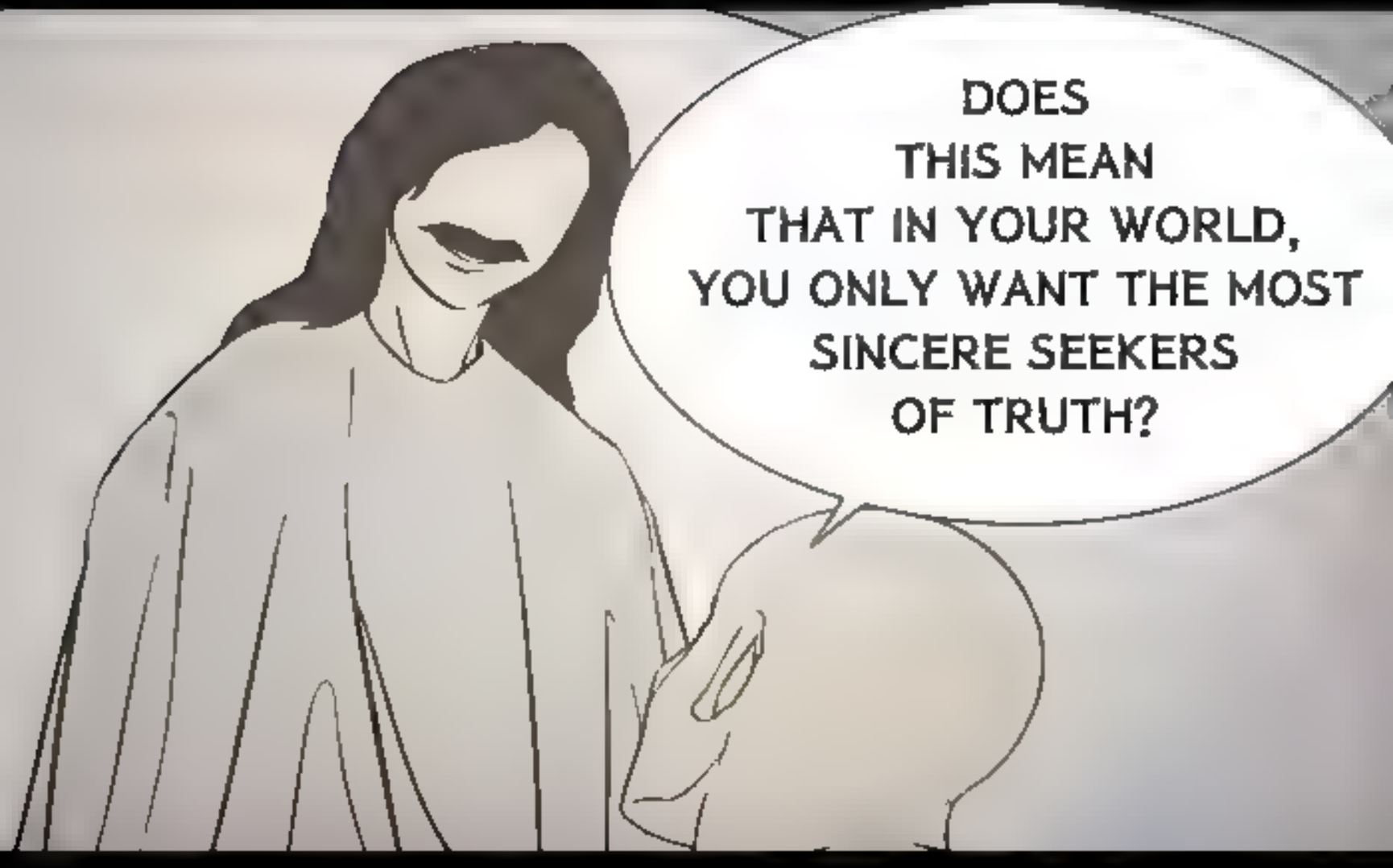
THINKING THIS, I FINALLY
UNDERSTOOD, AND GAVE IN.

THEN, WHAT IS THE REASON THAT THE ONLY CONDITION FOR PROVING THAT SOMEONE IS A BELIEVER OF YOURS,

THE ONLY CONDITION FOR ACHIEVING ETERNAL LIFE,

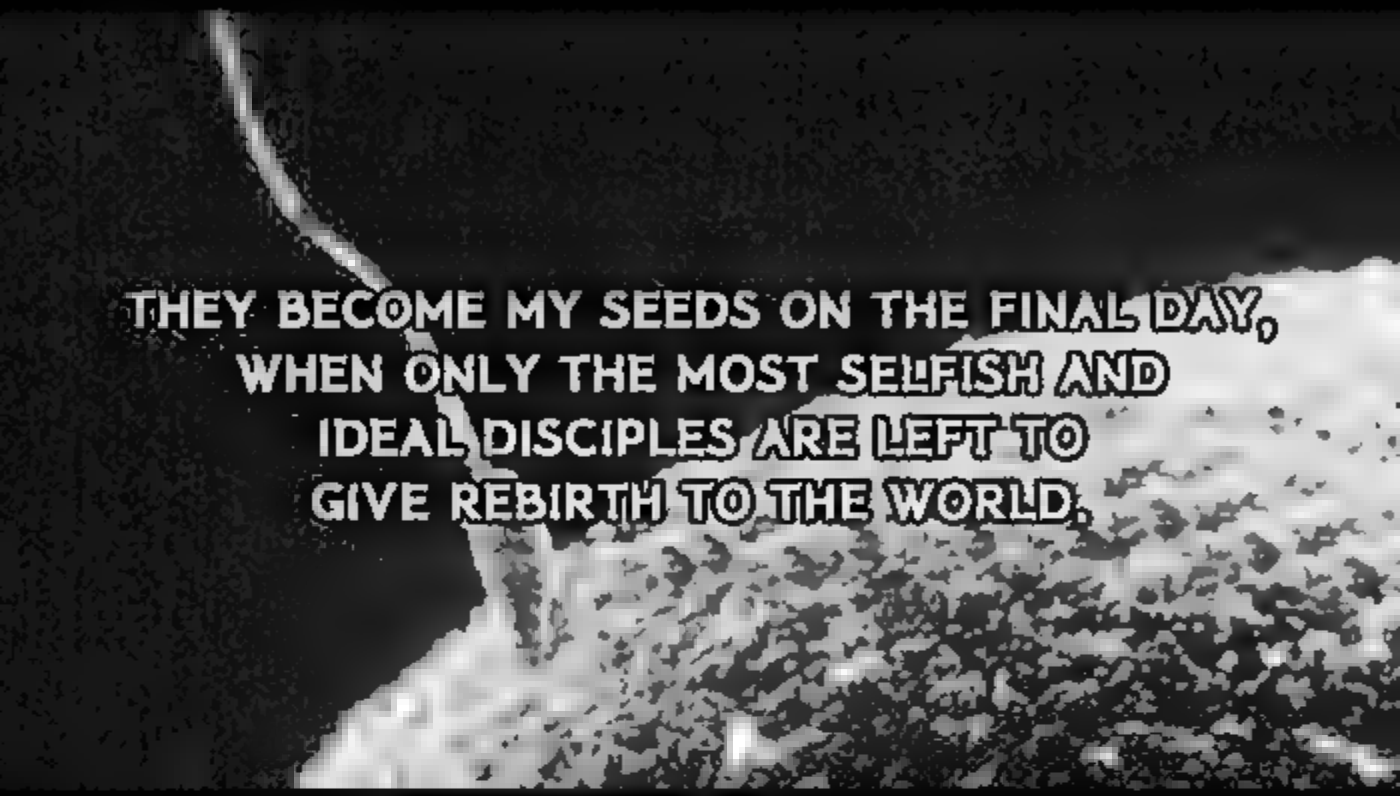
IS THE ONLY STANDARD BY WHICH YOU MEASURE PEOPLE?

IDEAL? IS HE SAYING THAT HE NEEDS PEOPLE WITH THE MOST PURE FAITH?



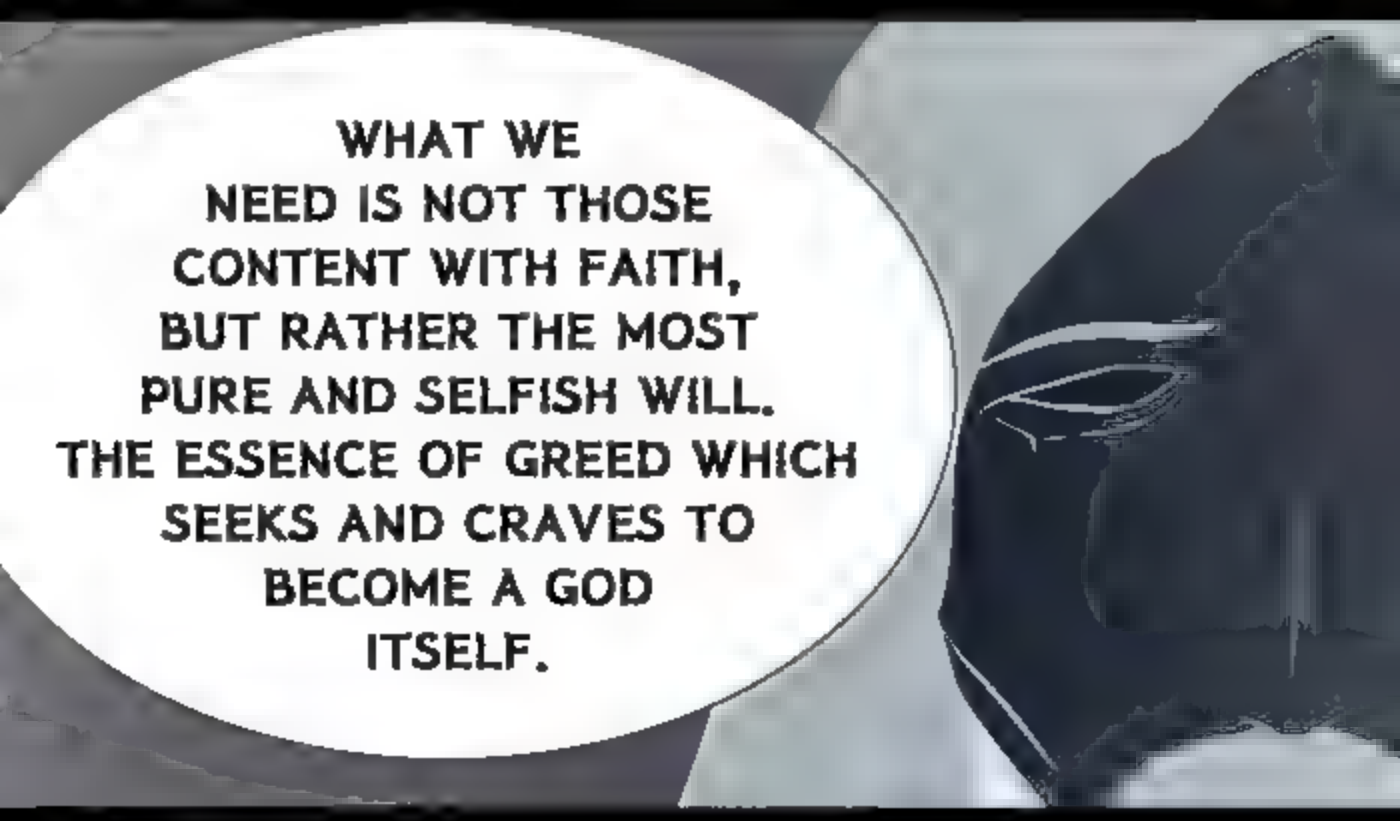
WAS I MISTAKEN? I THOUGHT
I SAW A FAINT SMILE ON HIS FACE.

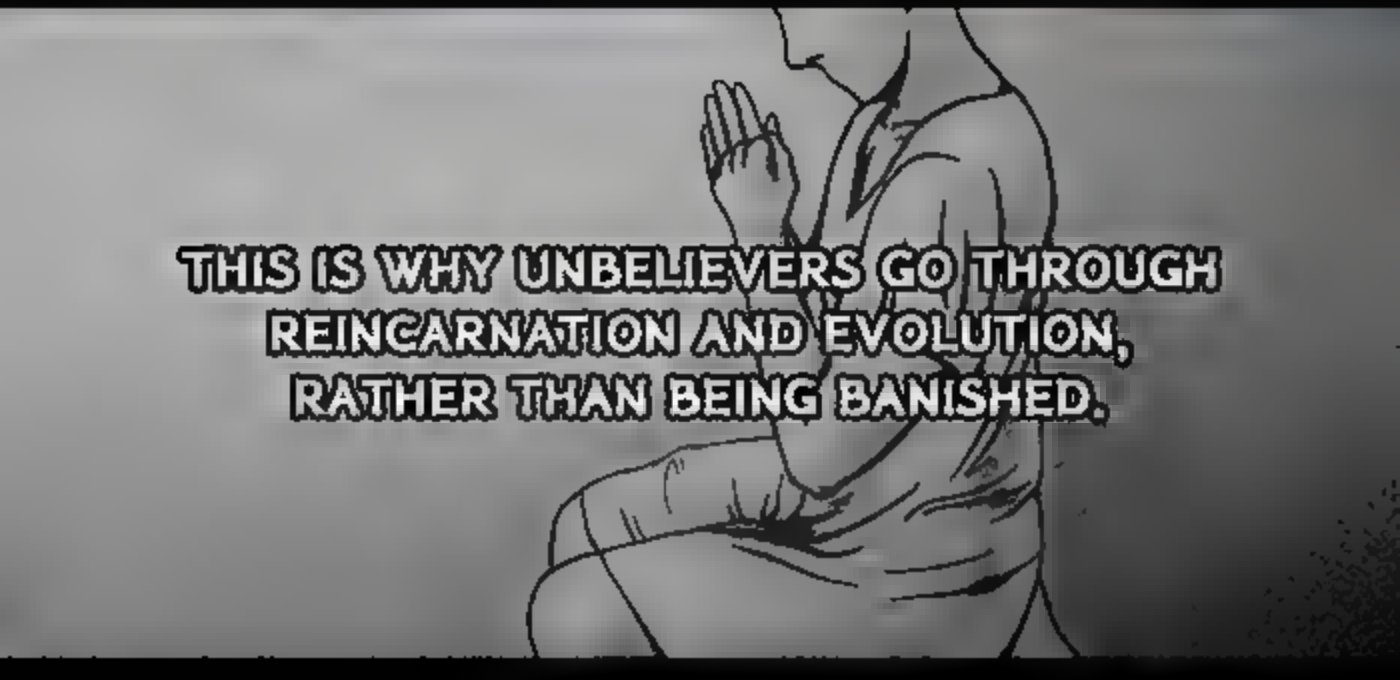
THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO PACK THE DATA OF THE FIRST LIFE FORMS INTO A CONTAINER AND PASS IT ONTO FUTURE GENERATIONS. THIS IS THE REASON FOR EXISTENCE AND ESSENCE OF LIFE FOR ALL CREATURES.



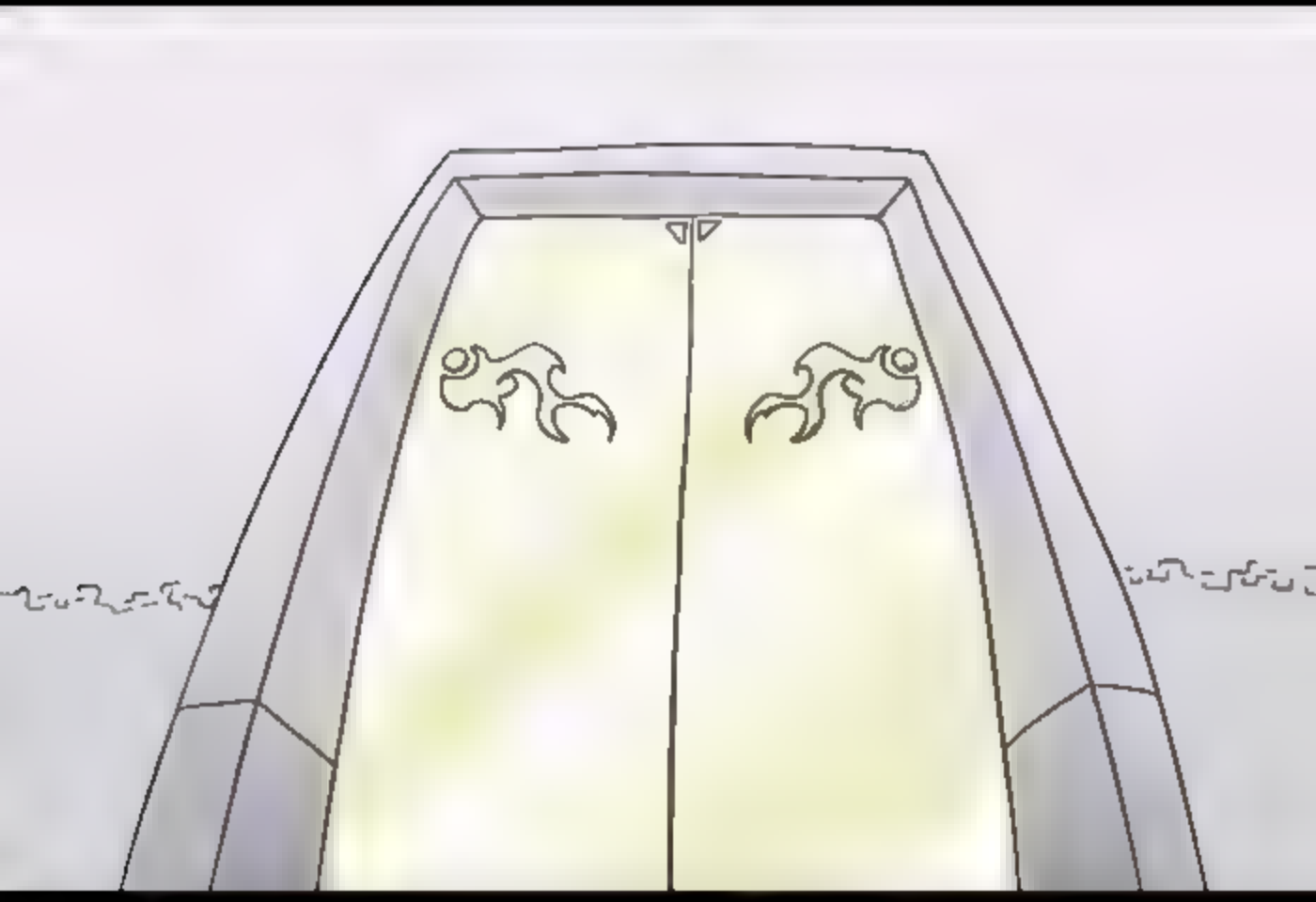
WHAT? SO GOD DOESN'T NEED HIS BELIEVERS?

WAS THAT JUST OUR OWN DELUSION?


WHAT WE
NEED IS NOT THOSE
CONTENT WITH FAITH,
BUT RATHER THE MOST
PURE AND SELFISH WILL.
THE ESSENCE OF GREED WHICH
SEEKS AND CRAVES TO
BECOME A GOD
ITSELF.


THIS IS WHY UNBELIEVERS GO THROUGH
REINCARNATION AND EVOLUTION,
RATHER THAN BEING BANISHED.

BANISHED?

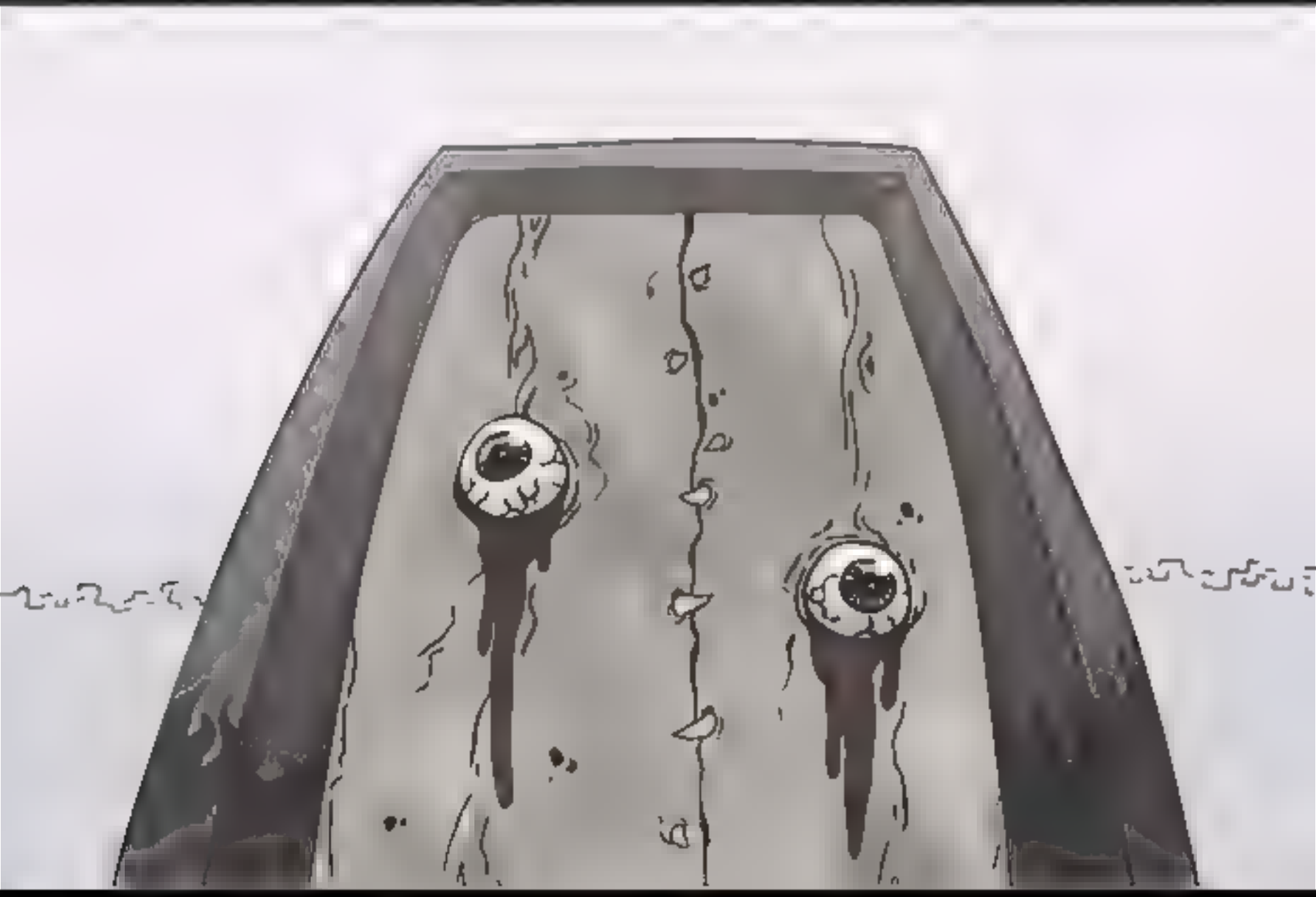


THAT WAS A PLACE OF EXILE?
A PLACE WHERE OBEDIENT CREATURES ARE KEPT?

A PLACE TO 'ETERNALLY' ISOLATE THOSE
WHO HAVE FAILED TO REALIZE GOD'S WISH?

THAT MEANS...

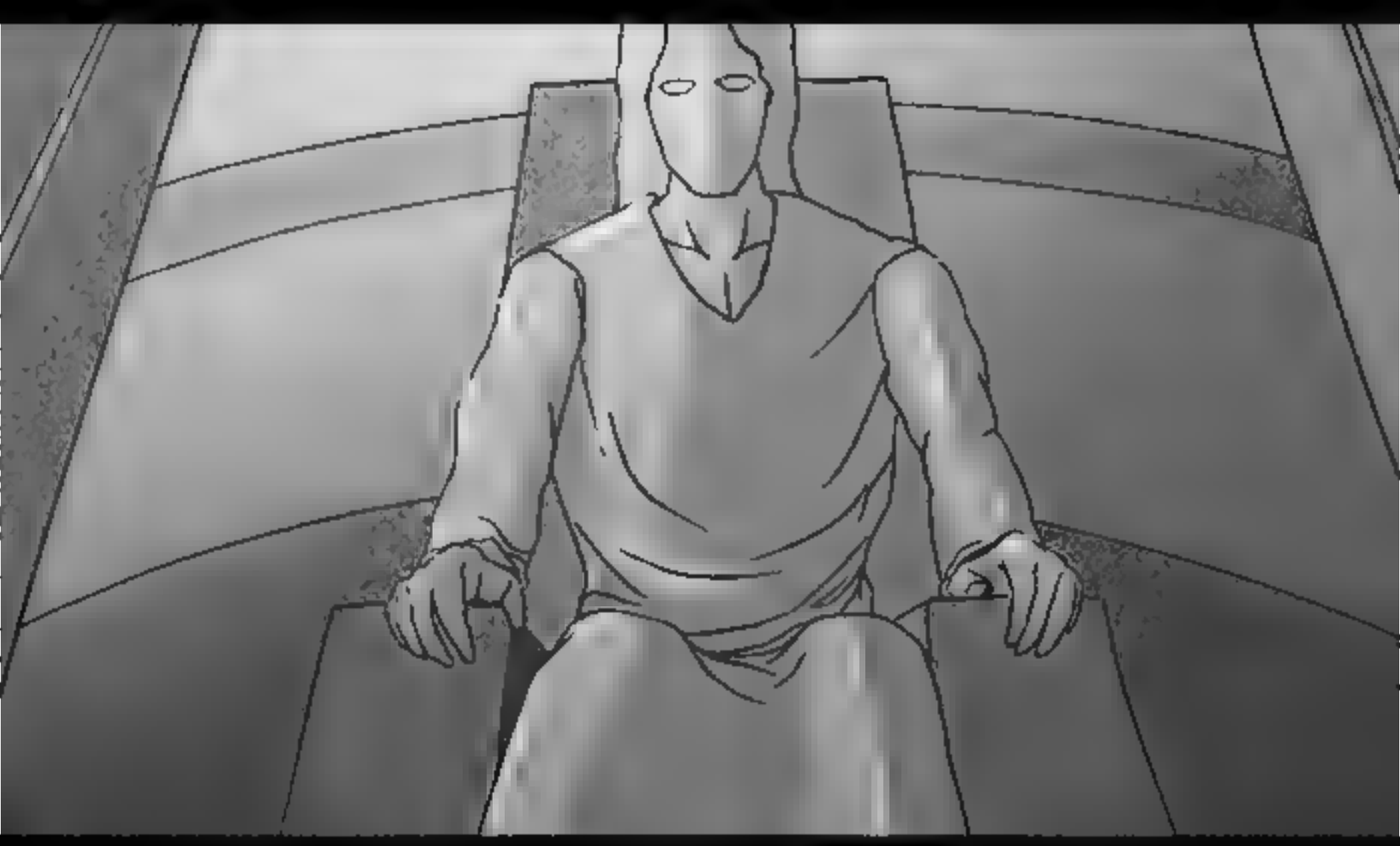
THAT PLACE...



AH! THAT PLACE!

I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD. THE REASON
WHY THIS WORLD THAT HE CREATED
REFLECTED ONLY HIS UTOPIA.

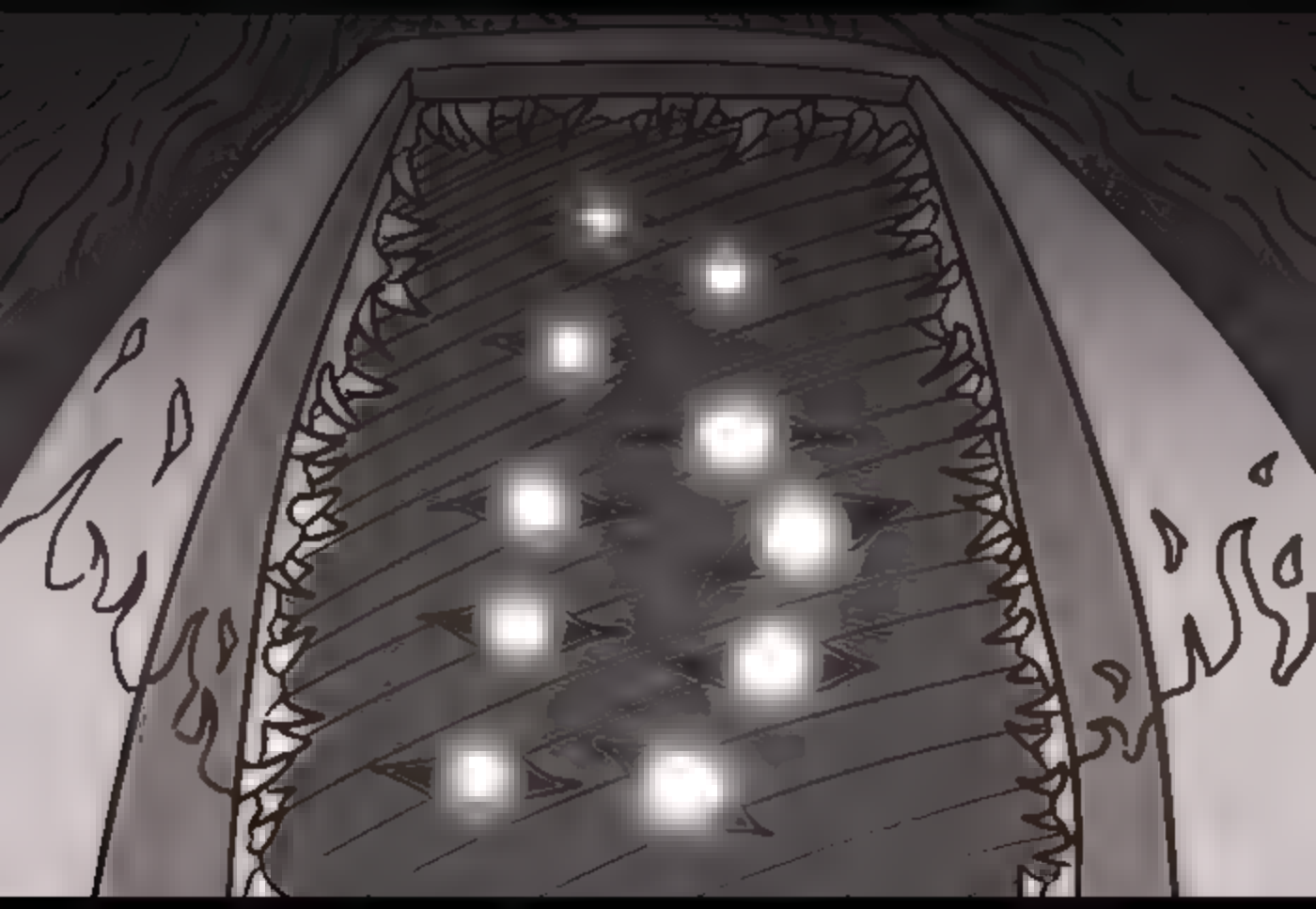
THE REASON WHY EVERY CREATURE
IN EXISTENCE RESEMBLED GOD.



WE ARE SIMPLY THE
MATERIALIZED FORM OF HIS INSTINCTS.

HAVING FINALLY REALIZED THIS,
AS IF IN A TRANCE,

I WALKED TOWARDS THE DOOR.



SLOWLY, I WALKED TOWARDS THE PLACE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 'HELL.'

IN ORDER TO BE USED AS HIS TOOL,

ON THE FINAL DAY THAT WOULD COME EVENTUALLY,

CONGRATULATIONS!
IT'S
A BOY!

IF THE PLACE WHERE SUFFERING, JEALOUSY, ENVY,
HATRED, FIGHTING, SADNESS, RAGE AND LOATHING

ARE ENDLESSLY REINCARNATED
AND REPEATED IS HELL,

THEN THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE WHICH
BEFITS THAT NAME AS MUCH AS HERE.

IF THERE IS ANOTHER GOD IN ANOTHER PLACE,

I HOPE THAT GOD IS SEEKING A DIFFERENT IDEAL....

THIS CONTENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED
WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MANHWA
MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE KOREA
CREATIVE CONTENT AGENCY

LINE Webtoon